## Message Text

SECRET

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SECRETSTATE 190608

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, PBOR, MILI, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

REF: TEL AVIV 9519; BEIRUT 4263

1. AMB. LEWIS HAS A POINT IN QUESTIONING WHEN THE "LEBANESE SOLUTION" WOULD BE BROACHED WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAC AND AT WHAT STAGE IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE. WE IN THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ASSUMING THAT THESE KINDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME, CERTAINLY GOING BEYOND THE PROPOSED MOVEMENT OF LAF UNITS ON THE WEEKEND OR SHORTLY SECRET

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THEREAFTER. AMB. PARKER'S REPORT (BEIRUT 4263) RE-CONFIRMS THAT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER CONSUMMATION OF A LEBANESE SOLUTION WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE, SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH, OR AFTER LAF DEPLOYMENT. WE AGREE, HOWEVER, WITH THRUST OF EMBASSY BEIRUT'S ANALYSIS THAT LEBANESE THEMSELVES ARE ACUTELY AWARE OF DANGERS OF NOT HAVING HADDAD'S COOPERATION IN DEPLOYMENT AND WILL NOT SIMPLY RELY ON ISRAELIS.

2. THEREFORE, BELIEVE AMB. LEWIS CAN STILL PROCEED WITH WHAT HE HAS AND URGE ISRAELIS TO SECURE MILITIAS' COOPERATION WHEN LAF PASSES NEAR MILITIA AREAS. ACTUAL DETAILS RE SOLUTION ARE LIKELY TO SURFACE PRIOR TO ARMY DEPLOYMENT, AND WE CAN ADJUST OUR APPROACHES ACCORDINGLY. AMB. LEWIS COULD SUGGEST ALSO THAT DETAILS AS REGARDS THE HADDAD-

SHIDIAC ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE SOUGHT BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE ILMAC MEETING.

3. WE MEANWHILE WILL SCOUR WHATEVER BIO OR OTHER INFORMATION WE MAY HAVE ON THE LAF COMMANDERS, AND THE BEKAA UNIT. PLEASE NOTE THAT, IN OUR OWN PRESENTATION TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, WE DID NOT RPT NOT USE THE TERM "VANGUARDS" BUT INSTEAD DESCRIBED IT AS A BATTALION TAKEN FROM THE FIRST BRIGADE STATIONED IN THE BEKAA. CHRISTOPHER

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